

**Pigeon River Country Recreation Work Group  
Potential Equestrian and Bicycling Opportunities  
Discussion Summary March 2008**

**Background**

The Pigeon River Country Concept of Management (Concept) was approved by the Director in November 2007. The final document was the product of an extensive and comprehensive update of the previous Concept. This process provided for multiple opportunities for public comments and input. Many of the comments received concerned mountain bike and equestrian uses in the Pigeon River Country (PRC). The Director, Rebecca A. Humphries, (Director) of the Department of Natural Resources (Department) requested that a work group be formed to further consider these recreational uses prior to the implementation of any Land Use Orders of the Director necessary to enforce recommendations identified in the Concept under the [Recreation and Law Enforcement](#) section of the Concept.

**Pigeon River Country Recreation Work Group**

The PRC Recreation Work Group was formed and met twice in February, 2008. The work group consisted of individuals representing the equestrian and mountain bike user groups (three members for each use); the PRC Advisory Council (two); the PRC Association (two); the hunting, fishing and trapping user groups (two); resource stewards (one); and Department of Natural Resources (Department) staff (representatives from Law Enforcement, Wildlife and Forest Mineral and Fire Management Divisions). The work group chairman was Mindy Koch, Department Resource Management Deputy and Dr. Charles Nelson from Michigan State University served as facilitator.

The first meeting included the identification and discussion of the strengths, challenges, and opportunities of the PRC. The second meeting focused on the development of four primary opportunities within the context of the challenges identified at the first meeting and the management objectives identified in the Concept.

**Opportunities:**

The following four opportunities were discussed as potential options regarding equestrian and bicycle uses in the Pigeon River Country and were presented to the Department for consideration.

- Provide a one year grace period prior to implementation of the Concept
- Keep the equestrian system and use as it was with a reservation system
- No change to the Concept
- Allow bicycling on the Shingle Mill Pathway, the Pickerel Lake Pathway, and Management Roads

**Conclusion:**

A consensus was not reached by the work group nor was one expected. The [discussion points](#) from both meetings are available for review. The work group understands a final decision is expected with a corresponding Land Use Order of the Director to be presented at the Natural Resources Commission Meeting in April as INFORMATION ONLY and in May for Director's ACTION.